



Mount Royal Undergraduate Humanities Review

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Contributors

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Editorial

It is difficult to capture the richness and complexity of the human experiences that constitute “the humanities” without acknowledging its interdisciplinarity. In the *Mount Royal Undergraduate Humanities Review*, (*Humanities Review*) we seek to give voice to studies of the diversity of the human experience by embracing an expansive definition of humanities. As a forum for undergraduate students, the *Humanities Review* publishes peer-reviewed scholarship, employing the broad and diverse theories and methodologies of the humanities. At Mount Royal University, the Humanities include History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Canadian Studies, Art History, Women’s Studies and Indigenous Studies. As a student of history, I examine complicated, conflicted, and diverse human conditions in the past, seeking to understand people’s lived experiences, which are, really, never fully knowable. Like all students in the Humanities, I construct evidence-based observations from varied sources in such forms as orality, text, music and film. I view these sources as windows onto collective and individual experiences, and onto the countless perspectives that people have employed, and employ, to make sense of each other and this world. I tell stories about human lives across time and space.

This inaugural issue of the *Mount Royal Undergraduate Humanities Review (MRUHR)* reproduces some outstanding original research conducted by undergraduate students in the Department of Humanities. The seven pieces published here highlight the diverse approaches that inform studies in the humanities. Their authors observe a wide array of original sources. They ask questions that are – delightfully – too large to answer only once. The papers exhibit an extraordinary degree of creativity, nuance and rigour, having each undergone blind review, a service generously performed by faculty in the Humanities at Mount Royal. In some instances, the final product looks significantly different from an original piece written to fulfill a course requirement. The subjects and approaches employed by the authors here are broad, and they reflect the interdisciplinarity of the humanities. Topics range from Jacques Derrida’s indefinable event to studies of sexual normativity in the horror film *Carrie*, as well as gender expectations in a courthouse in nineteenth-century Upper Canada and in medieval England. They also cover the reign of King Edward III, the political mind of Abraham Lincoln, and public representations of the European Holocaust.

I am humbled to have had the opportunity to work on this first issue of the *Humanities Review* and to have read all the submissions we received this year. If you are a fellow student, I hope that the work contained here inspires you to think, engage, write and perhaps even submit your work to future issues. If you are faculty, I hope that in these essays you see the measure of excellence that students in the Department of Humanities have achieved. Congratulations to our authors on becoming published undergraduates; this is rare accomplishment, and you should be thrilled. My sincere thanks to our editorial board and to the faculty members who graciously reviewed papers and offered constructive feedback. I am delighted to introduce you to Volume 1 of the *Mount Royal Undergraduate Humanities Review*. Happy reading!

Sabina Trimble, Editor
15 October 2013